

NARPO

NORFOLK BRANCH NEWSLETTER
Of service to those who served



Chairman's Notes

Happy New Year to one and all and I hope you all had a lovely Christmas. As advertised we held 4 Christmas lunches across the county which were all well attended but you can read about them in the following pages. I will be presenting my Annual report together with the Secretary and the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting in March and all their reports will be published in the Newsletter thereafter; so my message on this occasion will be short. As the cold bitter weather begins to bite in Norfolk, stay warm and safe and I hope many of you will be able to attend the AGM.

Stan Watkinson Chairman

January 2024

Helen Wickens MBE

Secretary

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NORFOLK BRANCH OF NARPO

The Annual General Meeting of the Norfolk Branch of NARPO will be held on **WEDNESDAY 6th MARCH 2024 commencing at 2.00pm**. The venue remains the same; Aldiss Park, (Dereham Football Club), Dereham.

As always, the Branch Chairman, Stan Watkinson, Secretary, Helen Wickens MBE and the Treasurer, Jane Stevens, will present their annual reports and answer any questions you would like to raise. This is your opportunity to hear what your Committee have been doing on your behalf during 2023.

In addition, we have three new members. recently retired, who attended the January Committee Meeting and have now been co-opted onto the Committee and will be formerly elected at the AGM. The AGM will be your opportunity to meet them. They are; Shane Schucroft, Vicki Briggs and Paul Bassham and we welcome them to our team.

The venue is all on one level with ample car parking and there will be tea, coffee and biscuits on arrival.

We look forward to seeing some of you there.

Helen Wickens MBE, Secretary.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness we announce the death of the following:

Full members: Pete Boddy, Peter Keeley, Steven Sullivan

Widow(ers) : Margaret Cordy



Christmas Gift Bags for our 90 + members



Ready for delivery

Once again, in the run up to Christmas 2023, we gave Christmas gift bags to our nonagenarians. The number of those members who have reached 90 increases year on year; we had 28 eligible members, this time. Only two live outside of the county so 26 gift bags were hand delivered by various members of the Committee. The delivery usually includes a chat with the recipients and a few laughs as we reminisced.



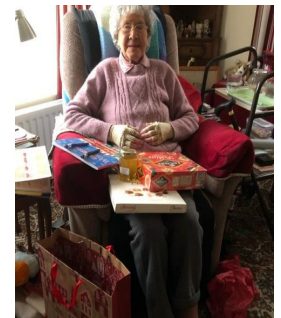
Alan Banister

Please see photos of three of this years recipients. The bags contained chocolates, local honey, savoury biscuits, sweets, 2 small bottles, one of wine & the second of prosecco, a word search book and pens. For those living in a Care Home theirs included toiletries. I am pleased to say two of our members will be celebrating their 99th birthdays in 2024. One said " see you at the AGM " and we will give him a great welcome.



Donny Greenwood

This initiative was suggested by Jane Stevens and she has put the hard work into sourcing the gifts and putting them all together. Committee Members help out with the delivery but Jane deserves a huge thank you for organising everything.



Muriel Everest



CHRISTMAS LUNCHES



As you know there were four Christmas lunches organised in December: The Anvill at Cogham, The Railway Arms at North Elmham, The Old Feathers at Framlingham Pigot (see photograph) and The Furzedown at Great Yarmouth. All were well attended and were a great success. So much so it is intended to repeat this for Christmas 2024, so watch this space.



Our grateful thanks go to Stan Watkinson, Ian Taylor, Brian Pincher and Mark Scott, the organisers of the respective events.

Branch funds are used to subsidise the cost usually to the tune of £10 per head per member and their partner so they are good value for money. It really is a chance to catch up with old friends and colleagues.



WE NEED A NEW BRANCH SECRETARY

I joined the Branch when I retired after 33 years police service in 2003 and was immediately co-opted onto the Branch Committee. Eric Bussey was the Secretary at the time and when he retired from this post in 2007, I was elected as the one to follow in his footsteps. It has been an honour for me to be your Secretary, but as many of you may remember I had to make the decision to stand down from the post in 2020, shortly after my husband had an accident; he fell off the garage roof onto a concrete path. (not to be recommended). He has fully recovered but neither of us are getting any younger and I felt it was time to devote more time to family.

Gus Williams took over but he made a decision to stand down after a few months and then Eric Bradley took over and he too made a decision to stand down as he couldn't give it the time that is needed.

I offered to return to hold the fort until someone new could be found and that was in December 2021, and I am still here, as we start 2024.

In October 2023, I informed the Committee that, for family reasons, I would not be standing for Secretary at the AGM to be held in March 2024. I didn't make this decision lightly but I know it is the right one for me and my family at this time.

It is the intention of the Chairman, Stan and the Treasurer, Jane, to fulfil the responsibilities of the Secretary's role for the next twelve months while a search goes on and it will give a possible candidate the opportunity to see what it is all about.

So. if you are interested in being part of a fantastic team, supporting friends and colleagues, with a view to becoming the Branch Secretary, please make contact with Stan or Jane via e-mail (stanwatkinson1@gmail.com or jrsnorfolk@outlook.com)

Finally I want to thank everyone for your support over the years and I hope to see you at the AGM as I sign off with my last annual report.

Helen Wickens MBE
Branch Secretary

Birthday Celebrations for Past President



Bert Herrington, retired former President & Chairman of the Norfolk Branch, Celebrated his 90th Birthday on Sunday 3rd December 2023. His son Nicholas organised a surprise celebration at the Mayfields Care Home, where Bert is staying following serious illness. His children were there including his daughter who lives in Australia and the Branch Chairman, Stan, and I together with Ian Taylor and Malcolm Chubbock joined them and some old colleagues to help celebrate.

Bert's memory is as sharp as ever and he managed to correct his son, Nicholas when, in his speech, he outlined his father's police service .



As we toasted Bert's birthday we all wished him good health for 2024.

LATEST NEWS ABOUT POLICE MUTUAL

Many of you will remember PMAS and I am sure some of you will have used their services in years past. I am often asked “what is happening to PMAS” and below is an e-mail from Kerry McMahon-White, Head of Police Mutual with the current situation, dated 5th December 2023.

As one of our key strategic partners, I would like to share an important update with you about the next phase of growth and development for Police Mutual.

By way of background, in 2020 Police Mutual Assurance Society (PMAS) became part of the Royal London Group (RLG). Royal London ensured that Police Mutual had a more sustainable future and a stronger financial position to continue to operate as a business. At the same time, Royal London also recognised the importance of the core business relationships within the UK Police Service, as well as maintaining the Police Mutual Committee of Management, now named the Oversight Committee, for continuity and to protect the culture and ethos of the business.

When Police Mutual joined the Royal London Group, it was acknowledged that the general insurance and healthcare products sold by Police Mutual, are not central to Royal London’s core business and it was always the intention to carry out a further review to ensure that the Police Mutual business could secure a long-term future with the growth prospects and investment it needs to thrive.

Royal London has announced it has reached agreement with Bspoke Group regarding the sale of the general insurance and healthcare elements of the Police and Forces Mutual businesses (Police Mutual Healthcare (PMHC) and Police Mutual General Insurance (PMGI)). It is proposed the entities will be sold together in one transaction (*subject to regulatory approval*).

Core to the considerations has been finding a buyer with the right strategic and cultural fit, who recognised the heritage of the businesses and its supporting of the UK Police service. On that basis, and following a robust market process, Bspoke Group has been identified as the acquiring firm.

The Bspoke Group specialises in niche affinities and specialist businesses. Their management team has shown a clear drive to continue to nurture and strengthen the relationships with our key business partners and to continue to invest in and grow the type of activity and support that Police Mutual is known for. The Bspoke Group has also confirmed they want to continue to support and harness the ethos and values of Police Mutual through financial education, wellbeing support, and the ongoing sponsorship of events, such as the Police Bravery Awards.

I am pleased to say that the current team and management structure will remain, and I will continue to lead the business. This move will bring increased opportunity and we will be in touch to discuss how we can support you in 2024 and beyond. We believe this is a positive step forward for Police Mutual and its customers and will enable us to grow and develop the products and services we offer to you and your colleagues.

Customers’ and Police Mutual colleagues are expected to transfer to Bspoke in early 2024. There is no immediate change for customers and all servicing and claims will continue to be processed in the usual way.

It remains business-as-usual for the team, and I will provide updates as the sale progresses.

Looking for Part-Time work in the Norfolk Area ?

Beechwood Solutions Ltd is principally a nationwide document signing service mainly on behalf of solicitors. They use a network of self-employed agents and they find that retired police officers are eminently suitable for this work. They are currently looking to recruit agents in the Norfolk area and if you are interested then have a look at their website www.beechwooduk.com and contact them direct. Malcolm Roberts is the contact at the company.

SUMMER SOCIAL EVENTS for 2024

At the Committee Meeting held in January, there was much discussion on what events could be organised this year. Jane Stevens said there will be another walking treasure hunt but it is too early to give the location etc. Paul Bassham is looking at an alternative to the Queen of the Broads Trip and there have been some new suggestions put forward that need some more research.

In addition Brian Pincher is in discussion with Andy Taylor who is best remembered for his 'Taylors Tours in conjunction with the Force Sports and Social Club. Andy has suggested a couple of Steam train events which we are progressing.

Hopefully by the next Committee Meeting in April we will be able to publish full details with costs and details of how to book your place(s).

Can I remind you that the Committee members are all volunteers and our Branch is really lucky that we have so many willing to do this, so I urge you to give your support if you can.

NORFOLK BRANCH COMMITTEE

Organising social events is just one of our priorities; we also try to provide welfare support and advice. If you know of a member who may need some assistance then please make contact as we may be able to help. I have listed the names of the current Branch Committee for your information.

Chairman— Stan Watkinson

Secretary— Helen Wickens MBE (retires in March)

Treasurer—Jane Stevens

Malcolm Chubbock (Vice Chair)

Ian Taylor

Brian Pincher

Mark Scott

Eric Bradley

Shane Schucroft

Vicki Briggs

Paul Bassham